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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL OTRA OVIP KSEP UNGA FR

SUBJECT: FRANCE: 61ST UNGA: HIGH-LEVEL ATTENDANCE AND
REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS

REF: A. STATE 112656

1B. PARIS 5157

This supplements our interim report (ref B) on GOF UNGA
attendance.

1A. Attendance of the Head of State:

-- Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic.

-- Arrival and departure dates are uncertain, but MFA on
August 21 reports he will probably leave after the second day
of the UNGA. He plans to give France's address.

-- Presence of spouse (Bernadette): Undetermined, but
likely.

-- President Chirac's English is good, but he usually
prefers the presence of an interpreter in formal meetings.

1B. Attendance of the Head of Government: MFA reports no
present plan for PM Dominique de Villepin to attend.

1C. Attendance of the Foreign Minister:

-- Philippe Douste-Blazy, Minister of Foreign Affairs.

-- MFA reports that FM Douste-Blazy will attend the UNGA and
will head France's delegation once President Chirac leaves.

-- Arrival and departure dates are uncertain, according to
the MFA.

-- Presence of spouse: Undetermined (but unlikely, in our
view, based on recent practice).

-- FM Douste-Blazy speaks some English but requires an
interpreter at formal meetings.

Please visit Paris' Classified Website at:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm>

HOFMANN